Application No.: 09/926,791

Art Unit: 2818

Examiner: Michael T. TRAN

## REMARKS

In the Office Action, it was acknowledged that claims 2-9 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten to include the subject matter of claim 1 from which they depend. As a result of this acknowledgment, Applicant submits herewith amended claim 1 that includes the limitations of claim 2. Accordingly, claim 2 has been canceled. It will be noted that claims 1, 4, 5 and 7 have also been amended in that the reference numerals originally present therein have been removed.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that claims 1 and 3-9 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's Attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1176 Phone: (703) 683-0500

Date: July 24, 2003

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Respectfully submitted,

JUSTIN J. CASSELL Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 46,205

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